

WHY WAYMAN IS RIGHT IN GOING AFTER OWNERS

The following extract from the report of the vice commission will show why State's Attorney John E. W. Wayman is right in prosecuting first the owners of disorderly houses, then the keepers, and in saying he will eventually dismiss the charges against the inmates:

"The first truth the commission desires to impress upon the citizens of Chicago is the fact that the social evil in this city is a commercialized business of large proportions, with tremendous profits of more than fifteen million dollars per year, controlled largely by men, not women.

"Separate the male exploiter from the problem, and we lessen its extent and check its flagrant outward expression. In addition we check an artificial stimulus which has been given the business so that larger profits may be made by the male exploiters.

"It is abhorrent to the moral sense of a community like Chicago—a city rightly ambitious to stand high in the world's achievements for civic and social betterment—that there should be within its borders a group of men, vicious and ignorant to a degree—who are openly and defiantly breaking the laws of the state, and bringing into ill repute the honor of the city.

"Side by side with this group of professional male exploiters stand ostensibly respectable citizens, both men and women, who are openly renting and leasing property for exorbitant sums, and thus sharing through immorality of investments, the profits from this business. A business which demands a supply of five thousand souls from year to year to satisfy the lust and greed of men in this city alone.

"These statements may seem exaggerated and highly colored, but a careful, ultra conservative study of conditions in this municipality has put the commission in possession of absolute facts on which to base these conclusions. No language can be too strong, no condemnation too severe, for those who have brought upon Chicago this intolerable situation.

"The court records show that practically no effort has been made during the past three years to prosecute owners and real estate agents who are leasing and renting property for immoral purposes. The law affecting these persons is a dead letter.

"The reasons for this are very apparent, first, the indifference of the public, and second, but perhaps the most vital, is because such property brings an exorbitant rate of interest on the capital invested."